

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 AGRE-00

/099 W

-----022779 210718Z /13

R 210421Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 2493

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR NP EARL

SUBJECT: 1976/ 7 CROP RESULTS

REF: A) KATHMANDU 641; B) KATHMANDU 2166; C) ROME 9212

ROME FOR FODAG FAO/EWS

1. OFFICIAL GON ESTIMATES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR THE CROP YEAR 1976/77 (JULY 76-JUNE 77) HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED. PADDY PRODUCTION WAS 2385 THOUSAND METRIC TONS, DOWN 8.4 PERCENT FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR; MAIZE WAS 787 THOUSAND TONS, A 5.2 PERCENT INCREASE; AND WHEAT WAS 362 THOUSAND TONS, DOWN 5.5 PERCENT. THESE RESULTS REFLECT THE LESS THAN IDEAL (BUT NOT SEVERELY ABNORMAL) WEATHER CONDITIONS WHICH PREVAILED IN COMPARISON TO 1975/76, A YEAR WHICH YIELDED ALL-TIME RECORDS FOR ALL MAJOR CROP CATEGORIES.

IN COMPARISON WITH THE PAST DECADE PER HECTARE PRODUCTIVITY WAS AT LEAST AVERAGE, AND THE TOTAL FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION WAS STILL THIRD HIGHEST IN HISTORY. NEVERTHELESS RICE EXPORTS TO INDIA IN 1976/77 ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE DECLINED TO AROUND
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120,000 TONS IN COMPARISON TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S 180,000 TONS.

2. DETAILED PRODUCTION FIGURES FOLLOW (GON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SHOULD BE TREATED MORE AS EDUCATED GUESSES THAN AS HARD DATA; SUCH FIGURES ARE CHIEFLY RELEVANT AS INDICATORS OF GENERAL TRENDS.)

PRODUCTION AREA PCT. CHANGES
 (THOUSAND M.T.) (THOUSAND FROM 75/76
 KS HECTARES)

 PRODUCTION AREA

PADDY	2385	1261	- 8.4	0.4
MAIZE	787	452	5.2	0.6
WHEAT	362	348	- 6.5	6.0
BARLEY	21	25	-16.6	- 6.1
MILLET	138	123	- 3.2	- 2.2
TOTAL MAJOR FOODGRAINS	3693		- 5.5	
POTATOES	269	52	-14.2	- 1.9
SUGARCANE	311	18	23.1	19.3

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OIL SEEDS	61	108	-10.4	- 4.6
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3. FOR THE COMING YEAR, AS NOTED BY FAO SPECIAL CROP REPORT #53 (REF C), MAIZE AND RICE PLANTINGS WERE SOMEWHAT DELAYED BY ADVERSE SPRING WEATHER. HOWEVER THE MONSOON RAINS BEGAN ON SCHEDULE LAST WEEK AND THE ZITURE OF THE CRUCIAL AUTUMN HARVEST DEPENDS ENTIRELY AT THIS POINT ON HOW WELL THE WEATHER PATTERN HOLDS UP FOR THE REST OF THE SUMMER.
 EAVES

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NNN

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